Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2022 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 430
Bill #: HB 56 GA
Document ID #: 4241
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to death benefits for first responders, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.
Sponsor: Representative Thomas Huff
Unit of Government: X City X County Y Urban-County Unified Local X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: Local Government
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

The proposed legislation amends KRS 61.315 to create a presumption that first responders who die of COVID-19, do so while in the line of duty and thus qualify for death benefits. It applies this determination retroactively for any first responder who was diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of engaging in any line of duty act on or after March 6, 2020.

No data is currently available on the number of public safety officers employed by cities who have died (or will die) from COVID-19. The estimated fiscal impact is expected to be minimal and be mostly administrative in nature.

According to the Kentucky League of Cities, because the benefit is not tied to workers' compensation and is paid by the State Treasurer through the general fund, cities generally would not experience any fiscal impact from the proposed legislation.

Kentucky Association of Counties indicated there would not be a fiscal impact on counties.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, pertains to the GA version of the bill which is unchanged from the original introduced version. The local mandate is unchanged.

Data Source(s): <u>Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties</u>

Preparer: MJO (wfb) Reviewer: KHC Date: 2/3/22